

Horsemans Give Wanderers A Second Opportunity

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 1, St. Albans City 1.

A FACE-SAVING equaliser by Tony Horsemans in the 33rd minute is about all Wycombe can be pleased about in this FA Amateur Cup third round tie at Loakes Park on Saturday. They kicked-off favourites but must have no more than an evens chance in tomorrow's replay at Clarence Park.

St. Albans deserved a draw for their spirited performance. Had they stuck to pure soccer instead of trying to goad Wanderers into indiscretion, they could well have won.

It was only in the last 20 minutes that Wycombe looked worth a place in the next round. It was as if they suddenly realised something had to be done. And they set about doing it—but not well enough.

St. Albans have already beaten Wanderers once at Clarence Park this season — when Len Worley broke his ankle — and so they have the psychological advantage. And if Wycombe don't play better than this they will have more than that.

SUSPECT

For once their 3,3,4 line-up looked suspect. There were

holes in the defence and gaps between the ranks. They can only hope it was a real off-day.

St. Albans's 15½-stone centre-forward Barry Butterfield netted a "goal" in the 14th minute, but it was disallowed for a foul on Maskell.

But nine minutes later they had more luck. Peter Roystone tried a mid-air clearance, wrapped himself round his own long legs, and was robbed by little left-winger Smith who moved cleverly across the face of the goal before shooting hard, giving Maskell no chance.

Horsemans' opportunist equaliser came ten minutes later, and I must say it looked offside to me. Still, after the game Horsemans was adamant it was a good goal, and the linesman was right on the spot. Baker received the ball and held on to it while the St. Albans' defence lined up. He then chipped it over their heads, and there was Horsemans waiting to bang it home.

Bates was unlucky to be robbed by the diving Fowler just as he shot, and Baker thumped the rebound straight at the prone keeper.

From then on until the last quarter, it was a story of bad passing and weak-looking attacks by Wycombe. On the other hand balding Roy Agar, the visitors' inside-right, seemed to be able to open up the Wycombe defence at will with his fast, jinking runs.

The continuity of the game was spoilt somewhat by Mr. Jackson, the talking ref., who must have had his pencil in and out of his

sock a dozen times. He never used it and to my mind never needed to. Perhaps he thought by asserting his authority he was cutting out the rough stuff.

There was little need for it. In cup football you are always going to get a certain amount of over-enthusiasm. The only man who really needed a talking to was Martin Gladwin, City's right-winger, who seemed more interested in John Beck than the ball. Silly, because he can be a brilliant ball-player.

The two best shots of the match came during Wycombe's late pressure, from winger Les Merrick. The first, a real stinger, was parried and cleared by Fowler, who tipped the second one over the top.

For Wycombe, goalkeeper Maskell was faultless, and full-backs Bradshaw and Beck had excellent games. Baker put in a terrific amount of work. Charlie Gale played with a bout of 'flu coming on, and as a result was not the power-house he usually is in defence.

Wycombe—J. Maskell; D. Bradshaw, J. Beck; B. Baker, J. Rundle, C. Gale; P. Roystone, K. Samuels, P. Bates, T. Horsemans, L. Merrick.

St. Albans—B. Fowler; G. Legg, D. Lawrence; B. Nisbet, D. Bromley, P. Wood; M. Gladwin, R. Agar, B. Butterfield, C. Roberts, H. Smith.